

THE FOUR Ps: WARNING SIGNS OF A DOG FIGHT

- **Posture.** A dog's body language communicates fear, hostility, or submission. Learn to read and respond to body language.
- **Packing.** More than four or five dogs packed together can lead to trouble. Break up the problem by leading your dog to a neutral area at least 30 feet away.
- **Possession.** Dogs will protect what is theirs. Remain aware and don't bring treats or toys into the park.
- **Provoking.** If your dog keeps annoying another dog or provoking attention, it's time to leave the park.

WHAT TO DO IF A FIGHT DOES HAPPEN

- Never reach your hands into the mix. You may be bitten, even by your own dog.
- Distract or divert their attention by a blast of water from a bottle or a loud whistle.
- If your dog is not involved, keep him out of the fight and move to a neutral area.
- Keep calm. Yelling only adds to the frenzy.
- Minor scuffles between dogs occur frequently; check vaccinations.
- If serious fights, clearly aggressive or dangerous behavior by a dog, or a bite to a person occurs, **call 9-1-1.**

*We hope you had a
great time! Come again!*

Contributions. The Clayton Community Dog Parks Citizen Advisory Committee is working behind the scenes to raise funds for additional amenities, such as a kiosk and permanent benches.

If you are interested in contributing any amount towards the dog park, please send a check to the Clayton Community Recreation Foundation, PO Box 879, Clayton, NC 27528, and put "Dog Park" on your check. You can also contribute with PayPal via our Facebook page ("East Clayton NC Dog Park").

If your business is interested in sponsorship opportunities (\$250+), please contact Larry Bailey at 553-1550.

CONTACTS

- Bites or other emergencies: 9-1-1
- Problems with the park itself: 553-1550
- General questions or comments: 553-1550 or ClaytonNCDogPark@yahoo.com
- Fundraising or sponsorships: 553-1550 or ClaytonNCDogPark@yahoo.com
- Requests to conduct dog training or other professional events: 553-1550

HOW TO HAVE A GREAT TIME AT THE DOG PARK



Welcome! So you and your dogs have been itching to get out, and now that the local dog park is open, you are ready. Well, not so fast!

We've put together this guide to help ensure that the park remains safe, healthy, and friendly. While this park is self-policing (meaning that we are looking to the members of our community to help each other adhere to the rules), Clayton's Animal Control Officer will be stopping by from time to time.



Your dog. First, you'll need your dog's rabies vaccine tag displayed on his collar. It is the law in North Carolina (NCGS § 130A-190). If Animal Control approaches you and you do not have the tag, you may face a fine. It's also a good idea to use flea and tick prevention on your dog regularly.

Let's go! The East Clayton Dog Park is located at 2027 Glen Laurel Road in East Clayton, a half-mile from the intersection of Route 42 and is open from sunrise to sunset. Once there, keep your dog leashed as you come up the walkway. No more than three dogs per adult, please! On your left, you'll see a waste bag station. Grab a bag or two; you'll need them!

If your dog isn't calm enough to enter the park or you need to finish your lunch, you can hang out at one of the picnic tables. You can leave any toys or treats here that you brought, as they are not allowed in the fenced area.

Come on in! On your right is the first fenced area, which is for smaller dogs, dogs who are shy and just need their own space, or recovering from surgery or injury. This area may also be used for personal training when not otherwise being used.

Straight ahead, you'll see a bridge that leads to the large fenced area. If you have a medium/large dog or your smaller dog is comfortable and outgoing around larger dogs, then this is the area for you!

Whatever area you use, you'll first go through a gate into the "bullpen." Do not open the outside gate if the inside gate is open or if there is already a dog in the bullpen.

The bullpen is where you take off your dog's leash. You can leave your leash hanging on the side, if you don't want to carry it. You'll need to remove choke, pinch, and prong collars at this time, as they are not allowed in the park.

Some dog behaviorists believe that bringing a dog into the fenced area while still on his or her leash sends a "message" that your dog is submissive, and other dogs may see it as an invitation to be aggressive towards your dog.

When your dog is calm, you are ready to enter the fenced area. Ask people to move their dogs away from the entrance to the park, so your dog can enter safely. Once in, move away from the entrance and away from other dogs. Space is your best friend in parks. This extra space can allow your dog to meet and greet with a little more safety.

It always happens! It's inevitable that dogs will go to the bathroom in the park, even if they went before you left home. Owners are responsible by law for the cleaning up of any dog waste deposited (Town Ordinance §91.29). Remember that bag you picked up earlier? To use it, put your hand in the bag, put it down over the waste, and close your hand around it. Pull your hand back out, pull the other end of the bag down and tie it closed. Throw the bag away at one of the waste disposal stations.

When you're ready to go, exit the same way you entered, and put on your dog's leash only when you're in the bullpen.

Rub-a-dub-dub. Did your dog get dirty at the park? There is a water station near the driveway that can be used for a drink or for a quick bath.

Your child. This park is for dogs, and not all dogs are child friendly. Kids unintentionally behave in ways that might disturb or annoy dogs. A running, flailing, squealing, or screaming child may attract a dog's attention, or herding dogs may nip at children to corral them. Even a child who is keeping to himself may be jumped on or pushed down by a well-meaning dog! For these reasons, **we do not allow children under 12 in the park.** (This includes babies, infants, and toddlers!) An adult must accompany all children over 12.

It's for everyone's enjoyment. Help us keep the dog park clean and safe. Smoking, alcohol, dogs who are less than four months old, in heat, sick, or aggressive are not permitted at the park. Cooperation between dog owners is expected. Help enforce the rules, and leave the site in a better condition than you found it. Small actions multiplied by thousands of visitors are what will keep our off-leash dog park a success!

Canine Behavior. Be present with your dogs, walk around the park with them, praise them when they behave positively, and monitor their interactions so you can head off trouble. Find a dog or two that your dog takes a liking to and stick with them. Don't allow your dog to dig holes, which can cause injuries to people and dogs. Keep close watch of your dog once inside. If your dog digs a hole, fill it immediately. If you're texting or absorbed in conversation, you won't know if you need to pick up your dog's waste or if your dog becomes aggressive.

Dogs have different play styles. Some owners may be concerned by another dog's rambunctious style, so always respect their wishes if they are not comfortable with how the dogs react to each other. If this happens, simply move to another area for a while.